What is claimed is:

1. A method for simulating performance on one or more data storage systems,

the method comprising the steps of:

receiving utilization data related to the utilization of one or more data storage systems;

receiving performance characteristics of work performed on the one or more data storage systems; and

simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems using the utilization data and performance characteristics.

2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising performing a storage management function after performing the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the storage management function is a performance modeling function.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the storage management function is a storage capacity planning function.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the storage management function is a consolidation of one or more data storage systems that may be denominated as one or more source data

storage systems into one other data storage system that may be denominated as a target data storage system.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the one or more source data storage system or the target data storage system is configured to be load balanced in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the one or more source data storage systems or the target data storage system is configured to be at least partially optimized for performance in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

8. A system for simulating performance activity on one or more data storage systems, the system comprising:

a computer having a memory and a display;

computer-executable program code operating in memory, wherein the computer-executable program code is configured for execution of the following steps:

receiving utilization data related to the utilization of one or more data storage systems;

receiving performance characteristics of work performed on the one or more data storage systems; and

simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems using the utilization data and performance characteristics.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the program code is further configured for performing a storage management function after performing the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the storage management function is a performance modeling function.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the storage management function is a storage capacity planning function.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the storage management function is a consolidation of one or more data storage systems that may be denominated as one or more source data storage systems into one other data storage system that may be denominated as a target data storage system.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the one or more source data storage systems or the target data storage system is configured to be load balanced in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the one or more source data storage systems or the target data storage system is configured to be at least partially optimized for performance in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

15. A program product for simulating performance activity on one or more data storage systems, the program product including a computer readable medium with computer-executable program code configured for causing the following computer-executed steps to occur:

receiving utilization data related to the utilization of one or more data storage systems;

receiving performance characteristics of work performed on the one or more data storage systems; and

simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems using the utilization data and performance characteristics.

16. The program product of claim 15, wherein the program code is further configured for performing a storage management function after performing the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

17. The program product of claim 16, wherein the storage management function is a performance modeling function.

18. The program product of claim 16, wherein the storage management function is a storage capacity planning function.

19. The program product of claim 16, wherein the storage management function is a consolidation of one or more data storage systems that may be denominated as one or more source data storage systems into one other data storage system which may be denominated as a target data storage system.

20. The program product of claim 19, wherein the one or more source data storage systems or the target data storage system is configured to be load balanced in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.

21. The program product of claim 19, wherein the one or more source data storage systems or the target data storage system is configured to be at least partially optimized for performance in accordance with information yielded from the step of simulating performance on the one or more data storage systems.